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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE PATENT EXAMINING OPERATION

Applicant(s): Günter FUHR, et al.

U.S. National Stage of PCT/EP2004/006800

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Examiner:

Att. Docket No.: B1180/20046

Confirmation No.:

For:

SAMPLE HOLDING DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION

THEREOF

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to initial examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.